



California Postsecondary Education Commission

770 L Street, Suite 1160 • Sacramento, California 95814

www.cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Sherri Orland

sorland@cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

State Higher Education Policy Commission Examines Wide Range of Issues

SACRAMENTO — December 7, 2006 — Issues ranging from affordability and accountability of higher education systems to college-going rates and services in rural and remote areas will be on the docket when the California Postsecondary Education Commission meets on December 12-13, 2006 in Sacramento. The Commission will also hear presentations by California State University (CSU) Chancellor Charles Reed and Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

On December 12, 2006, Chancellor Reed will discuss his work on behalf of the CSU in the areas of college preparation and outreach to historically underserved populations. He will focus on the Early Assessment Program (EAP) and its positive implications for minority students in California.

Executive Director Murray Haberman noted, “Success in postsecondary education hinges on how well we prepare students in high school. It is especially encouraging that a national Commission on the Future of Higher Education, convened by the U.S. Secretary of Education, has embraced the State University’s EAP program as a model for the rest of the nation.”

Interstate comparisons pertaining to access, affordability, and performance within postsecondary education will be the focus of a presentation by Dennis Jones on December 13, 2006.

During the two-day meeting, the Commission will hear presentations on higher education accountability that compare outcomes at California’s public universities with similar institutions on a nationwide basis, identify strengths and weaknesses, and highlight best practices. The issue of accountability is an extremely high priority for the Commission,” said Haberman. “California spends over \$14 billion annually on higher education, yet it lacks a statewide accountability system. These reports support the need for the state to adopt a framework for measuring higher education performance and improving its effectiveness and efficiency.”

The two-day agenda also includes a report from the Commission’s Special Panel on Affordability as well as recommendations from staff on ways to resolve the affordability problem facing families who are buying a higher education.

—MORE—

The agenda for the Commission meeting can be accessed and viewed on its website at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd0612.asp> . The Commission meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m., at 770 L Street, Suite 1160, Sacramento, CA. It will be streamed on the Internet and can be heard live at <http://www.cpec.ca.gov> . The public is welcome to attend the meeting or follow the proceedings and submit questions to the Commissioners via the Internet at agomez@cpec.ca.gov .

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.